

10-15-2007

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Recommended Citation

Rhode Island College, "What's News At Rhode Island College" (2007). *What's News?*. 83.
https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/whats_news/83

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Oct. 15, 2007 Vol. 28 Issue 2

WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000

Then...



RIC celebrates 50 years at Mount Pleasant Avenue



...Now



**By Jane Fusco, Editor &
Michael Smith, Assistant to the President**

As the College begins a yearlong golden anniversary observance of its Mt. Pleasant Avenue location, it welcomes the largest class of incoming students in its 154-year history.

"Mud."

In a word, that's what Billie Ann Burrill, retired Rhode Island College professor of health and physical education, remembers most about the College's move from downtown Providence to its current Mt. Pleasant Avenue location, 50 years ago.

The 1957-58 academic year had been unusually wet, which didn't bode well for the 48 acres of open farmland on the outskirts of what was then a suburban section of Providence. The site had just become the new home of the Rhode Island College of Education (R.I.C.E.), an institution dedicated solely to teacher preparation. The institution was renamed Rhode Island College in 1960 and given an expanded mission to provide a new, comprehensive curriculum.

Because most of the existing vegetation was cleared from the construction site during the building process, the season's melting snow and record rainfall had pooled into enormous mud puddles

Cont. p 14



Lee "Braveheart" Edmonds (left) and his brother Harry "Hawk" Edmonds participate in the first-ever powwow held on the RIC campus, on Oct. 4. The Edmonds brothers are members of the Pokanoket Wampanoag Tribe. The event, which included several Eastern Native tribes, was part of Diversity Week at the College. Maria Lawrence, assistant professor of elementary education, coordinated the powwow. (A story on the experiences of RIC Native Americans appears on page 3.)

Wn Quotes...

“It is interesting, though, when people you drive by on the road are doing the sign of the cross at the sight of my car.”

– Ronald Andruchuk, a RIC psychology major who drives a hearse to school. [P 14]

“The play tells us to speak up ... don’t be afraid to break out and try new things.”

– Jamie Taylor, director of the RIC Theatre’s production of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest', which will be staged Nov. 14-18. [P 10]

“Women need to understand that we have to be assertive to accomplish our goals.”

– Keisha Frost, a school program director and 1996 Olympic qualifier in the 400-meter hurdles, speaking at last month’s Spotlight on Women event sponsored by the RIC Women’s Center. [P 5]

WHAT’S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

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What’s News at Rhode Island College (USPS 681-650) is published by:
Rhode Island College
Office of News and Public Relations
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

It is published monthly from September to June. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

Printing: TCI Press, Seekonk, Mass.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
What’s News at Rhode Island College
Office of News and Public Relations,
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

Deadline:
Deadline for submission of copy and photos is noon the Tuesday two weeks before publication date.
Telephone: (401) 456-8090
Fax: (401) 456-8887



The next issue of
What’s News
will be Nov. 12, 2007

Story ideas are welcome.
Call (401) 456-8090
or email rmartin@ric.edu.

Margaret E. C. Dooley joins RIC Foundation

Margaret “Maggie” Dooley ’76 has been appointed major gifts officer of the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Dooley will work with the development office, Foundation, alumni staff, members of the College community and friends of the College to identify and solicit funds from private sources that address the College’s mission, goals, and immediate and long-range needs, said Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations.

“We are especially pleased to welcome Maggie Dooley into this position,” said Brown. “Her addition to the team will give us an opportunity to work more closely with our deans, directors, faculty and staff, and to build upon the framework that has been developed over the last decade. This is a very necessary next step as we continue to put the pieces of a successful program in place.”

“I’m very excited about joining the development team and the opportunity to partner with

the College community in our fundraising efforts and to promote the mission of Rhode Island College,” said Dooley, who has 20 years of experience in strategic planning, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and event planning.

Her most recent position was executive director of Heritage Harbor Museum, for whom she had worked in various positions since 1995. Previously, she had been executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association/NE/RI, and a development assistant for the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Dooley was a RIC anthropology honoree in 2000, Leukemia Society of R.I. Trustee of the Year, and received the USTA/NE/RI Distinguished Service Award. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Leadership RI, Smithsonian Institution and East Providence Historical Society.

Dooley, who received a bachelor of arts from the College, is on the RIC Alumni Association’s Board of Directors.



MAGGIE DOOLEY

FOCUS ON Faculty & Staff



ELAINE MAGYAR



ALICEBELLE RUBOTZKY

Elaine Magyar, professor of chemistry, presented an invited talk at the NSF Catalyzed Innovations in the Undergraduate Curriculum Symposium at the 234th American Chemical Society National Meeting in Boston in August. The talk was titled “Enhancing the undergraduate chemistry curriculum with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.” **Marc Lamontagne**, associate professor of chemistry, and **James Magyar**, professor of chemistry, were co-authors. **Alicebelle Rubotzky**, associate professor of nursing, recently completed a two-year Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellowship Program developed and offered by the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center at the University of Rhode Island. The program provided faculty development in the field of gerontology/geriatrics as it relates to educational and instructional applications, both didactic and clinical. Participants were primarily faculty from health professions and included representatives from non-health disciplines who also had strong interests in gerontology. The program required attendance at seven daylong workshops on topics in gerontology offered over a two-year period in the spring and fall semesters, development of a project of approximately 100 hours of work, and attendance at faculty fellows meetings twice each semester over the duration of the program.

Cheryl Williams earns education award



CHERYL WILLIAMS

Cheryl Williams, assistant professor of art and educational studies, was selected by the Rhode Island Art Education Association (RIAEA) as its 2007 Outstanding

Higher Education Art Educator of the Year. In addition, Williams was named 2007 RIAEA Art Educator of the Year.

Williams and other honorees will receive their awards at an RIAEA’s fall awards meeting on Oct. 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the RIC Faculty Center. The public is invited.

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE NOV. 10

THE MURRAY CENTER
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
1-4 P.M.

In case of severely inclement weather, the Open House will be held on Sunday, Nov. 11, from 1-4 p.m.

Program Highlights

- 1 p.m. Official kick-off and president’s welcome
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. “One on One:” meet our faculty, staff and students
- 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Tours every half hour: trolley, residence hall and quad tours
- 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Half-hour presentations on financial aid, liberal arts, education, etc.
- 2 p.m. Admissions presentations
- 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Showcasing the performing arts: a special tour
- 3:30 p.m. Grand finale raffle
- 4 p.m. Program concludes
Refreshments and music throughout the day.

For more information, call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 1-800-669-5760 or (401) 456-8234; Or email admissions@ric.edu.

TTY/TDD via RI Relay for the hearing impaired: 1-800-745-5555

Reasonable accomodation for people with disabilities available on request. Please call in advance.

Native Americans at RIC uncover a history of colonialism

By Gita Brown
Staff Writer

Julianne Jennings '06 remembers when her grade-school teacher asked if anyone knew anything about Indians.

"I do. I'm Indian," Jennings said.

"No you're not. You're Negro," was the teacher's response.

"We were told that all Indians were dead," Jennings said.



JULIANNE JENNINGS

Jennings is Nottoway-Pequot Indian and a graduate student in RIC's

anthropology department.

Native Americans – who once completely populated the North American continent – now make up only one percent of the total U.S. population. Eight out of 10 Native Americans are of mixed blood.

According to anthropologists, much of Native American blood-mixing came about through slavery. Many Indians, including the Tainos of Hispaniola, the first group encountered by Columbus, were enslaved by European colonists in mines or on plantations. Indian slaves were in fact the precursors to African slaves.

"Particularly in New England, there was a lot of intermarriage between black and Indian slaves," Jennings said, "whether it was for human affirmation because people had fallen in love or it was forced upon them by the colonizers as a means of breeding a labor force."

Jennings is tri-racial, a mixture of Native, black and white. Her mother is white and her father, now deceased, was Nottoway-Pequot. She was able to trace her earliest white ancestor back to Master Jennings from Ireland who owned Nottoway Indian slaves. One of his sons sired five boys by a Nottoway Indian woman and then sent the boys up north.

"My great grandfather was a product of what Master Jennings probably didn't want to talk about," she said.

Jennings has made public appearances to teach on Eastern Woodland Indian history and culture. Yet she found that the public questioned if she were really Indian. They'd ask, "Why, as an Indian, do you look that way? You don't look Indian to me."

In order to authenticate who she said she was, Jennings would use hair relaxer to straighten her curly hair. "I was ashamed of my curly hair because it didn't fit the stereotype of what an Indian's hair should look like," she said. And she'd don her buckskin dress, moccasins, feathers and beads before she gave a performance.

"I realized that I didn't fully understand and accept myself as being Indian," she said.

At RIC she found the tools to embrace her own nativeness, but she struggled at first with black and Indian histories because they are so intertwined. Last year she took a course called "Critical Race Theory," in which she was able to reference, through documentation, the history of racism in America.

"I literally cried in that class because I was finally able to validate who I was through readings and journaling. I was little Julie again in public school who knew herself as Indian but who was labeled by society as Negro."

In March of 2006 Jennings had the racial category on her birth certificate corrected from Negro to Native American.

She also became an enrolled member of the North Carolina Nottoway Tribal Community.

"The knowledge I received at RIC, together with redefining myself through my birth record, were the tools I needed to fully walk in and embrace Julie, the tri-racial. I finally got my life back. And that's big. When you speak of the horrors, the genocide, of Native peoples, *everything* reflects that story. I acknowledge all of my selves, but I am Indian."



MARIA LAWRENCE

Native American faculty and staff are equally active in educating the community about the effects of colonialism

on indigenous peoples. Maria Lawrence '82, assistant professor of elementary education, is a Ramapough Indian.

Lawrence said that the colonial process included the eradication of the Indian's traditional way of life in order to teach them to become like white men. Lawrence cited Richard Pratt as an example, who was founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in the late 1800s. Over a 39-year span, Pratt recruited 10,000 Indian children from reservations throughout the country and removed them to the Carlisle boarding school far away from tribal influences. The children learned the English language, to read, write and work at trades, but they were also prohibited from speaking their native language, wearing their traditional clothing, and engaging in traditional customs. Pratt has often been quoted as saying, "Kill the Indian, save the man."

Lawrence said that colonialism never ended for Native Americans. The educational system is still used extensively in the acculturation process.

"Native American children continue to enter colonial schools where they are subject to colonial histories. Having a sense of one's culture and history brings with it a sense of self. And cultural

identity is critical to survival in a colonial environment where whiteness is valued over culture," Lawrence said.

In a multicultural course that she teaches, Lawrence asks students to talk about their cultural heritage. She found that this is especially challenging for students who classify themselves as white.

"They have lived identifying themselves with a color instead of a culture for so long that for many of them it becomes an exploration of self," she said.

Talking to elder members in their family, these students trace their ancestry and many become fascinated by it.

Lawrence also addressed the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of Native Americans in children's literature. Though there are a great many works of children's literature that feature Native Americans – some of which are considered classics, such as *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder – many of these works also contain derogatory and stereotypical images of Indians. The majority of these books were written and illustrated by authors who are not themselves Native American.

This summer, Lawrence and three other researchers assembled an exhibit at Adams Library of Native American children's literature written by Native authors or historians.

"My concern is that there be a full and respectful representation of Native American peoples," she said.



JAMES MONTFORD

The generic stereotyping of Indians is an issue that has also been taken up by James Montford, interim director of RIC's Bannister Gallery, who is of Pequot ancestry. Montford is also a fine artist who uses a variety of mediums to reconfigure and deconstruct racial stereotypes.

In a 2004 performance-art piece in Buffalo, N.Y., Montford posed on the steps of City Hall wearing an Indian feathered headdress while clutching a fistful of cigars to represent the stereotypical cigar-store Indian. Bystanders either helped themselves to a cigar or wondered what he was up to. Local television networks filmed the seven-hour performance as well as the reactions of the public. One of the onlookers told an interviewer, "Racial stereotyping is very subtle, yet it affects the services we receive, the way we deal with each other, and the

way we think about each other."

"This presentation and other performance-art pieces that I do can be transformative," said Montford. "It can impact people's lives a lot more immediately."

Montford is also tri-racial; however, he self-identifies as black. "I don't self-identify as Native," he said, "because my family never celebrated it in that regard."

But Montford's 79-year-old mother, Bessie, said, "Back then there was no such thing as self-identifying as Indian. You were either white or colored."

In 1924 the federal government passed the Racial Integrity Act, which reclassified thousands of Native Americans as "colored" on their birth and marriage certificates. Families to the second and third generation had their ancestry erased. This act was repealed in 1975.

Bessie's father, Otis Simonds, was in fact not black but Mashantucket Pequot. "He was often mistaken for white, but he never identified as white," Bessie said. "And he couldn't say Indian either. He had to say colored. But Papa used to tell me, 'Always remember you're Indian, no matter what they call you.'"

James Montford's son Daniel has remembered. He identifies as Mashantucket Pequot. In the process of reclaiming his identity, Daniel changed his last name to Loudfoot-Montford. He is a fine artist who focuses on Native American themes and a dancer and drummer with the Eastern Suns group, which performs at powwows throughout New England.

(RIC's first-ever powwow was held on campus on Oct. 4.)

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the U.S. government banned all dance-based Indian traditions and spiritual practices. It was not until 1933 that the government lifted its ban and dance could once again take an active, public place in American Indian life.

Loudfoot-Montford said, "When I dance, I dance for all my relations, those who have died, and for my father and my brother. When I dance, I take back what was taken."

Their hope is that centuries of colonialism can be undone, transforming the lives of indigenous people everywhere.



The late Otis Simonds and his daughter Bessie Montford.

NEWS FROM THE Foundation & Alumni Offices



BY ELLIE O'NEILL

Director,
Alumni Affairs



The Alumni Association closed out the fiscal year by awarding \$100,000 in scholarship money to 125 qualified students. Each year, the committee, which is comprised of board members, meets to review applications and their need for funds. Reading follow-up thank you notes from students on how the grants ease their burden would make you all very proud of our students.

Last month, we welcomed several new board members at our Sept. 19 meeting. The following week, the Helen Lombardi '40 Memorial golf outing took place at the Cranston Country Club. In the 17-year history of the event, no one can remember a day quite like the one we had – temperatures were in the 80s! Perhaps that is why we raised a record amount – over \$14,000. Thank you to our sponsors and to the Lombardi family for their support.

Homecoming week was full of events from reunions to lectures to our wonderful tent area, which hosted a craft fair, used book sale, the campus store, the young alumni information area as well as the Alumni Association information site. At noon, under sunny blue skies, an aerial photo was taken with several hundred people on the lawn. We estimate that 1,500 alumni, students, parents and friends of the College were in attendance during the festivities. Without the support of a great committee this huge undertaking could not occur. Thank you to the many offices and faculty members who assisted with the plans.

Please review the information on this page for upcoming events. If you'd like to get involved in any of our committees or events, please give us a call at (401) 456-8086.

In Memoriam – Past president of RIC Alumni Association, Elena Leonelli '42



The Rhode Island College Community mourns the loss of Elena Leonelli '42, past president of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, who died Oct. 3 at the Elmhurst Extended Care Facility. She was 87.

Elena and her late husband, professor emeritus Renato Leonelli, were two of the founders of the Rhode Island College Foundation. As a charter member, Elena was a constant presence during the past four decades as trustee, board member, donor, volunteer, and friend of the College. The Alumni Awards program was initiated under her leadership. In 2004, RIC President John Nazarian awarded Elena the Presidential Medal for her service to the College and growth of the Foundation. During the College's 2006 Homecoming Weekend, the faculty lounge in Alger Hall was named in honor of Renato. Elena, her husband and her family established two endowments in the Foundation, one to support the study of Italian, and the second to support a scholarship for students in the physical sciences. The family has indicated that contributions to the endowments in Elena's memory would be appreciated.



2007 Homecoming Committee.



The Education Alumni group hosted a reception on Sept. 27 in Bannister Gallery for alumni who have been recognized for accomplishments in the education field during this past year. (Seated) Michael Kozusko '98, National Board Certified Teacher; Melissa Denton '90, National Board Certified Teacher; Julie Motta '90, National Board Certified Teacher; Ann Marie McDonnell '80, District Teacher of the Year, North Providence; (standing) Kathleen Swann '79, Alumni Association board member and chair of the Education Alumni Group; Brian Fernandes '00, National Board Certified Teacher; Brenda Glover '99, District Teacher of the Year, North Kingston; Jodie Olivio '90, Presidential Award, Math/Science; Amy Dufault-Thompson '93, Milken Award recipient; Roger Eldridge, interim dean, FSEHD; Marcia Cross '74, District Teacher of the Year, Johnston; Jennifer Carlsten '73, National Board Certified Teacher; and Karen Castagno, interim associate dean for teacher education, FSEHD.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

TO OUR GRADUATES AND FRIENDS

If you make your charitable contribution through SECA (State Employees Charitable Appeal), the Combined Federal Campaign or the United Way, we have important information for you.

There are two ways you can donate to the College through the ease of payroll deduction

- 1. Give to the Alumni Association**
Help support student scholarships, faculty research, the Alumni Magazine, Homecoming, and other alumni events and programs.
Questions? Call Nancy Hoogasian at 456-8827
- 2. Give to the Rhode Island College Foundation**
Donations support scholarships and funds focused on specific departments and programs at the College. If there is a particular fund or cause you wish to support, designate the Foundation as your choice.
Questions? Call Cathy Hanrahan at 456-9547

United Way Contributors

The United Way has eliminated the use of donor codes, but if you would like to designate your donation to a specific fund, simply list the name of an agency and the city and state where it is located on your pledge form. If you would like to direct your United Way donation to us, please write the following on your form:

Rhode Island College Alumni Association
Providence, Rhode Island

Rhode Island College Foundation
Providence, Rhode Island

SECA and Combined Federal Campaign Contributors

Fund codes are still used for the SECA and The Combined Federal Campaign. To designate the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, please use code #4473.

To designate the Rhode Island College Foundation, please use code #4984 for SECA and #9833 for the Combined Federal Campaign.

Charitable Gift Annuities That Pay You Income Annually

Thursday, November 1, 2007
Alger Hall 110

Light Supper at 5:30 pm
Workshop 6:00 to 7:30 pm

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:



Mary Louise Kennedy, Esq.
Partner, Providence office of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge. Areas of practice include estate planning, family and charitable gifts, estate and trust administration, probate practice and income taxation of trusts and estates.



Bridget L. Mullaney, Esq.
Joined Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge as an associate in the fall of 2006. Area of practice is private client.

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 29
Email – alumni@ric.edu or call
(401) 456-8827 to reserve.

Once on campus, please look for the
Charitable Gift Annuities Workshop signs.

RIC shines spotlight on women

By Peter Silveira '08
Staff Writer

The concept of hard work, dedication and a desire to help others echoed in the words of each guest as the RIC Women's Center held its inaugural event on Sept. 25 called "Spotlight on Women."

The panelists included Keisha Frost, director of school programs for the Education Partnership; Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88, assistant athletic director for internal affairs at RIC; Elizabeth Roberts, Lt. Governor of Rhode Island; and Vanessa Gilbert, executive artistic director of the Perishable Theatre.

Frost, a 1996 Olympic qualifier in the 400-meter hurdles, spoke of her drive to succeed.

"If I had a bumper sticker to describe myself, it would read 'I am competitive,'" she said.

She was the sixth fastest woman in the United States during her senior year of high school, and went on to set the school record in the 1600-meter relay at the University of Washington, from which she graduated in 1999 with a BA in speech communications.

But being extremely fast is only part of the legacy Frost hopes to leave behind.

"Women need to understand that we have to be assertive to

accomplish our goals," said Frost.

"It is when we understand and know our power that we are motivated and willing to change the world."

As director of school programs, Frost has a heart for the young, and is responsible for securing funds to implement K-12 curriculum throughout the Ocean State while researching existing programs to create similar models.

D'Alessandro also has a background in athletics, which has remained a vital part of her life.

"It is extremely important to determine what your passion is ... and once you figure that out, you must develop and maintain qualities such as teamwork, perseverance, dedication, discipline, self-control, self-confidence and optimism to carry you the rest of the way," she said.

Certainly, D'Alessandro used those characteristics to help her amass an astounding 1,426 points during her four-year career on the RIC women's basketball team, a total that places her second on RIC's all-time scoring list.

Roberts was sworn into office as the 68th Lt. Governor of Rhode Island last January, the first woman to hold that position. Previously, she served five terms in the

general assembly, campaigning for affordable health care, economic development, job growth and a stronger school system.

"We can change the face of politics," said Roberts, referring to the role that she and many other women like herself will play in the years to come.

The guests seemed to feel as if discrimination against women has diminished in recent years.

"Our mothers changed the culture," said Gilbert, also the first woman in her position, which entails research and development of new performance works and plays. She noted that the artistic community has always been more accepting of females.

"I'm the only woman administrator in the office, but the guys make me feel like one of them," D'Alessandro added.

Ann Roccio '79, Women's Center advisor and director of disability services at RIC, hosted the event and praised the women for their extraordinary leadership qualities.

"Our guests have been first in many areas," said Roccio.

"They are women who are accomplished leaders and who are role models for future leaders in our state and the country."



KEISHA FROST



LT. GOV.
ELIZABETH ROBERTS



VANESSA GILBERT



JO-ANN D'ALESSANDRO



CALL FOR HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the Council of Rhode Island College invites members of the College community to nominate individuals worthy of consideration for honorary degrees to be awarded at the 2008 graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies and at other times as may be appropriate. Further information is available online at www.ric.edu/honorary/. Please forward all nominating materials to Roberts 405 no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26. All nominations must remain confidential throughout the process. Questions may be directed to Michael Smith, chair, Honorary Degrees Committee at (401) 456-8004 or msmith@ric.edu.



Members of the Gold & White Bequest Society attending a luncheon on Sept. 27 include (seated, left to right) Rita R. Gehrenbeck '87, Mary G. Davey '41, Edna M. Coogan Snow M '77, Gloria Marciano, and Annette R. Archambault Carpenter '43; (standing, left to right) Dorothy R. Pieniadz, Donald B. Babbitt '59, Louis A. Marciano '60, RIC President John Nazarian '54 (ceremony host), Mary Smith McGrath '48, Virginia A. Wilcox '43, Barry Schiller, and Mary M. Wellman.

At the event, each member received a Gold & White Society pin. Bequests are made to Rhode Island College by alumni and friends from all walks of life. The support received through such bequests is an important element in providing a quality education to deserving students. For more information about becoming a member of the Gold & White Society, please call Maggie Dooley at the RIC Foundation at (401) 456-9866.

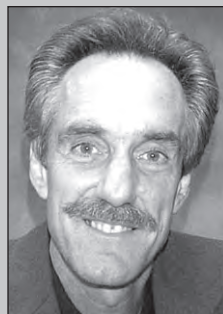


The Helen Lombardi '40 Memorial Golf Tournament on Sept. 24 featured perfect weather and plenty of fun. Leadership and corporate sponsors include (left to right) Paul Hackley '85 (Liberty Mutual), Paul Bourget '69 (Bourget and Associates, Inc.), RIC President John Nazarian '54, Joseph Medeiros (Medeiros Financial Services, Inc.), Nick Rivello (Dome Construction) and Steve Higgins (Coca Cola Bottling of Providence).

Sponsors not appearing in photo are Michael Lombardi (Family of Helen Lombardi '40), James O'Donnell '82 (Equity National Title Insurance Company), US Bank, First Southwest Company, The TJX Companies, RI Health and Educational Building Corporation.



DIANA DELIA WHITE



ROGER CLARK

Faculty Research Symposium

The Faculty Research Symposium will be held Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 5 p.m. in Alger Hall 110. This year's speakers are Diana Delia White, associate professor of history, who will present "They Would Be Heroes," and Roger Clark, professor of sociology, who will discuss "The RIC Foundation of My Research and Teaching, with Thoughts About Great Women Artists." The event is sponsored by RIC Alumni Affairs, the RIC Foundation, the Faculty Research Committee and the Friends of Adams Library. Refreshments will be served.

RIC Athletic News



Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs (left) and RIC President John Nazarian are joined by Lynne Hickey '67, wife of the late Athletic Hall of Famer Donald Hickey '62, during the dedication of a locker room in Donald's name.



Sue Fullam Nast (left) and Mary Jane Fullam pose with Nazarian following the dedication of the Mark F. Fullam '60 Locker Room in honor of the late Athletic Hall of Famer.



Members of the 2007 RIC Athletic Hall of Fame gather for the induction ceremony.



Kristy Siravo '00 (with ball) takes on Patty Testa '00 at the RIC Women's Soccer Alumni Game on Sept. 29.



RIC President Nazarian disputes the claim of Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Stephen Lynch '82 (right) that Lynch was taller. Also pictured is Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations.



Hail, hail, the gang's all here! RIC Athletic Hall of Famers get together at the annual Athletic Recognition and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



RIC baseball alumni who participated in the alumni game on Sept. 29 take a group photo.



Former women's basketball player and WPRO-FM radio personality Jessica Schiano '99 poses with Nazarian at the Athletic Recognition Dinner.



Former Marshall University head football coach Jack Lengyel (right) stands with Gary Penfield following the Sept. 26 screening of the movie *We Are Marshall* at RIC.



Some of the men's soccer alumni prior to the start of the alumni game on Sept. 28.



RIC grad student Laura Frechette, who ran in the 5K road race, pays homage to late Jonathan Blais '96, who, despite suffering from ALS, completed the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon in 2005.

Homecoming 2007 offered the RIC community a weekend's worth of exciting events. On Saturday, Sept. 29, a large turnout enjoyed a sun-splashed day full of activities and entertainment. Some of the day's highlights are shown here.



The annual 5K road race gets underway. Eric Lonergan (number 52), a RIC elementary education major, was the winner.



Iain Twining scales the tiki climbing wall.



The bounce inflatable puts a spring in the step of these youngsters.



Rickey Gatlin and his sister Eycess Gatlin get their faces painted.



Kathryn Sasso '69 displays her jewelry in the arts and crafts tent.



The first-floor study room in the new residence hall is named in honor of Edna Snow M '77 (inset), who attended the ceremony marking the occasion.



Former Nursing School members (left to right) Dorothy Petarca, Connie Pratt and Bernice Petarca participate in the Nursing Alumni Reunion Breakfast event.



The Ocean State Follies comedy troupe performs.



student activities day

SEPT. 12

Dozens of student clubs and organizations exhibited their offerings and recruited new members at this outdoor fair, which also featured other important College-related information and plenty of giveaways.



During a reception recognizing RIC President John Nazarian's donation of pianos to the music program, John Henry Burns, a music performance major, plays a piece for Nazarian and a group of students visiting from the UK.



From left, nursing students Leisa Bourget, Tara Brown, Emily Lind, Crystal Rice, Oululade Majofadun and Katherine Batchelder receive scholarships during the School of Nursing's welcome reception on Sept. 19.



SCHOOL OF NURSING INVOLVED IN LOCAL COLLABORATION

Attendees of a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 8 celebrate the newly formed collaboration of the Scituate Health Alliance, Scituate Ambulance and Rescue Corps. and RIC's School of Nursing. Left to right are State Sen. Leo Blais; Jane Williams, dean of RIC's School of Nursing; Chris Koller, Rhode Island health insurance commissioner; Lynn Blanchette '82, RIC assistant professor of nursing; Dr. Michael Fine; State Rep. Carol Mumford '65; and John Marchant, president of the Scituate Health Alliance. The event took place at the Ambulance Corps. Facility on Danielson Pike in North Scituate.

The cooperating groups will provide the nursing services to Scituate residents, initially targeting mothers-to-be and mothers with newborn children, with an emphasis on breast-feeding instruction. The three groups are planning to bring birthing classes to Scituate and are working with the Hillside Family and Community Medicine practice, based in North Scituate, to hold several flu-shot clinics in the late fall.

The Scituate Health Alliance is a non profit Rhode Island Corporation whose main goal is the inception of the Scituate Health Plan which, when fully instituted, will provide affordable and accessible health care for the residents of Scituate.

Cuckoo’s Nest to stir up RIC’s Mainstage in November

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer

In 1962, on the cusp of the ‘60s revolution, Ken Kesey published his bestselling, anti-authoritarian novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. It was a book of its time, and more.

Within a year of its publication, Kesey’s story was headed for Broadway when actor Kirk Douglas “fell in love with the book,” as he once recalled in *Entertainment Weekly*, and then hired Dale Wasserman to adapt Kesey’s novel to the stage so that he could star in the lead.

The play now sees about 150 productions a year worldwide and has been translated into 27 languages. A 2001 Broadway production won a Tony for Best Play Revival.

From Nov. 14-18, this second incarnation of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* will be presented by RIC’s Mainstage Theatre in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre.

Cuckoo’s Nest centers on Randle Patrick McMurphy, a prisoner who contrives to serve his sentence in a mental institution in hopes of having an easier time of it. But McMurphy is an inveterate individualist and soon clashes with Nurse Ratched, ward supervisor and rigid authoritarian.

McMurphy refuses to succumb to Nurse Ratched and the rules of the institution and infuses new life into the place. He makes a presumed deaf and dumb Indian talk, instigates a rebellion so that the inmates can watch the World Series on television, and orchestrates a wild midnight party.

Still, at the end, the authoritarian forces of the institution and Nurse Ratched weigh too heavily on McMurphy and cause his fate to take a dark turn.

According Jamie Taylor, who is directing the RIC production, *Cuckoo’s Nest* has a timeless quality.

“The play,” said Taylor, “tells us to speak up ... don’t be afraid to break out and try new things.

“For me the crux of the play is when McMurphy tries to lift a heavy electrical unit as the patients look on. He fails, but says, ‘At least, I tried.’”

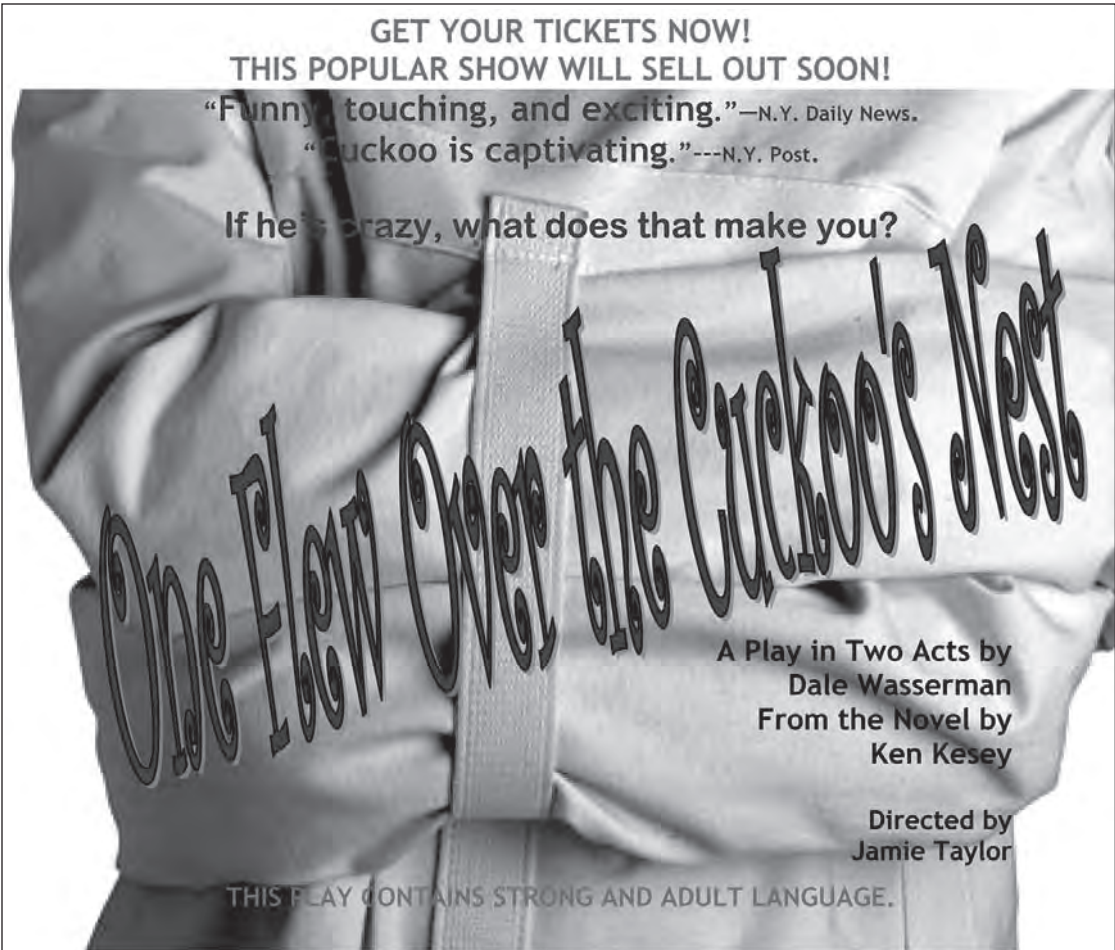
Another reason for the play’s appeal, Taylor noted, is that audiences can relate to Mac’s struggle. “It’s a rebellion against a system that is not working.”

Taylor, an associate professor of theatre, has been eager to direct *Cuckoo’s Nest*, which he describes as a “wonderful, character-driven play.”

Taylor envisions McMurphy as “a rebel with a cause – a good cause. He gains sympathy by standing up against the Man. He seems to have the most sense in the play.”

Nurse Ratched is “tricky” to portray. While she is the hero’s nemesis, she, in the director’s words, “believes that the treatment, the coldness, the unchanging structure is best for the patients. She herself is cold, stern, and shows little emotion. She doesn’t see the alternatives.”

For those who are familiar only with



the 1975 film version, Chief Bromden should come as a revelation as he is not emphasized there. Taylor noted of him, “He is the only character that comes into his own. He catches on to McMurphy, and he escapes because he gets it.”

Taylor also plans to use some special approaches to underscore the Chief’s role, such as lighting effects, voice-overs for monologues, and Native American music as accompaniment.

Another character who holds a special interest for the director is Billy Bibbit, a patient affected by a severe stutter.

“It’s a phenomenal part,” remarked Taylor. “Billy is totally living in fear of his mother. It makes you want to understand what went on in his house that brought him here. You feel bad for his plight. You want him to succeed.”

Taylor does have a propensity for directing pieces like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, that is, stories that share genres. At the College, Taylor has staged *The Little Foxes* (film and drama), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (novel, film, drama), and *Steel Magnolias* (film and drama).

These stories connect with audiences and often achieve hit status, and that interests Taylor from a directorial standpoint.

He noted, “Hits have mass appeal, so actors are more excited about the show. Actors feed off the title because it generates its own force right from the start.”

A list of some of the actors who have played McMurphy, for instance, can serve as a gauge of potential excitement. In addition to Kirk Douglas, there have been Gary Sinise, William Devane, Christian Slater, and of course, Jack Nicholson in the film.

Taylor acknowledged that directing a play involving mental illness

takes careful consideration, and he faced a similar problem when he staged *The Boys Next Door* at the College a couple of years ago. That play deals with four mentally challenged men who share a house.

“There’s a fine line between doing caricatures and a realistic portrayal,” Taylor stated. “The director must find a way to have us laugh with the characters and not at them. It can’t be over the top. It must be realistic.”

This point is reinforced by the play’s writer Dale Wasserman, who had worked with Douglas on *The Vikings*, a 1958 adventure film starring the actor.

In a brief essay, “Hatching the Cuckoo’s Nest,” Wasserman stated that his own research for the project included investigating six institutions ranging from “a posh mental clinic in New York” to the “abysmal cellar of Milledgeville, Georgia.” He also had himself committed as a patient in an institution for two weeks.

As for the physical staging of the play, Taylor is choosing the abstract route to develop “a cage-like feel.”

He elaborated, “I see a coldness to the scene, something coming from the authoritarian Nurse Ratched.”

Taylor eagerly anticipates getting on with this production: “I have a wonderful cast who will be taking different spins on the characters. So those familiar with the film and Broadway productions should expect something new.

“I am very excited about journeying together with the cast toward the opening.”

Performance times are 8 p.m. Nov. 14-17, with 2 p.m. matinees on Nov. 17 and 18. General admission is \$14. For further information call the box office at (401) 456-8144.

Photographs by Brown University art professor Kerry Stuart Coppin at Bannister

Bannister Gallery is showcasing the photography of Kerry Stuart Coppin in the exhibit "Between Me and the Other World," which runs through Oct. 26.

Coppin, an associate professor of art at Brown University, employs digital photography to explore the impact of international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) in countries described as "developing."

INGOs can be broadly defined as organizations for worldwide or regional action, which are not directly a part of governmental structure. INGOs have a history dating back to the mid-19th century and were instrumental in the anti-slavery and women's suffrage movements. Contemporary INGOs include Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam International and Save the Children Alliance.

In his photographs, Kerry Stuart Coppin provides the viewer with a reinterpretation of societies of the African Diaspora that not only celebrate their divergent cultural and traditional values but also are coming to grips with the geopolitics of living in a postmodern world.

Coppin's image-making is rooted in the narrative tradition, while his use of new media plays a vital role in an aesthetic that seeks to contextualize the visual reexamination of the Diaspora. Coppin digitally alters images as necessary to clarify his point of view or improve formal composition, not unlike past masters such as Walker Evans and W. Eugene Smith.

In a statement referring to his work for a prior exhibition, "Materia Oscura/Dark Matter," Coppin noted, "While teaching at Kansas State University, in rural Kansas, I came to recognize and appreciate a rural Black experience, significant in number, as diverse and complex as those in major cities,

which has gone unrecognized and undocumented.

"And, even more significant, are the experiences of people of African descent in the rest of New World. Virtually unknown and undocumented, for example, are the lives and experiences of an estimated 150 million persons of African ancestry in Latin America."

Boston Globe critic Sarah Tomlinson, in reviewing a show of Coppin's images of urban Africa, pointed out a related aspect of his work, his exploration of

Africa's ever-fascinating people and unrecognized beauties. She said, "But Coppin isn't just a reporter; he's also an artist. His photographs exude a visceral beauty that he hopes expresses what he sees as the continent's real wealth."

Coppin's international exhibition record comprises

more than 150 venues, including the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, Art Institute of Chicago and Brooklyn Museum of Art. His photographs are held in the collections of the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Smithsonian American Art Museum and the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal, among others.

In cooperation with the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, this exhibition is supported by a larger campus discussion examining the role and impact of INGOs.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon to 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and open to the public. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at www.ric.edu/Bannister/ or call (401) 456-9765.



Kerry Stuart Coppin. *Untitled*, 2000. Bartender/Vietnamese Restaurant/Dakar, Senegal. Giclée print/inkjet print. 32"X 40".

free admission music events

High School Invitational Choral Concert

This fifth annual event spotlights invited choirs from local high schools. The RIC Chorus and Chamber Singers will also appear in this special concert that concludes with a massed choral piece performed by all participating ensembles. The concert will be held Friday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Wednesday Chamber Music Series – Mark O'Connor

This year's series, "Bach to Blues," continues on Wednesday, Oct. 31, with a performance by celebrated violinist and composer Mark O'Connor. He will be joined by RIC artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman on piano, and Mike Block on cello. O'Connor is widely recognized as one of the most gifted contemporary composers in America and one of the brightest talents of his generation. *The New York Times* has called O'Connor's career "one of the most spectacular journeys in recent American music."

The 50-minute recital will be held at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. A question-and-answer session with the artists will follow the performance.

RIC Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Ensembles concert

John Sumerlin, composer and RIC professor of music, will conduct a concert on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Jeffrey Siegel's innovative Keyboard Conversations® return to RIC

Rhode Island College welcomes Jeffrey Siegel and his Keyboard Conversations® for a sixth season of entertaining and informative performances. The Performing Arts Series presentation – the first of three new "concerts with commentary" by Siegel – will be held Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in Nazarian Center.

The show, *USA: An American Salute*, is a celebration of the American experience that features the music of Bernstein, Copland, Joplin, MacDowell and others. The program begins with an insightful discussion of the composer and the music to be played, followed by the full performance. It concludes with a lively question-and-answer session with the audience.

Siegel has performed with some of the most famous symphonies in the world, including the philharmonics of London, Moscow, New York and Los Angeles.

He currently tours the country and world as a soloist presenting his popular Keyboard Conversations®, which have been delighting concertgoers for 20 years.

For a night of great music in a unique concert style,

see the artist who *The New York Times* calls "... a performer who colors with virtuoso artistry."


Siegel returns on Feb. 26, 2008, with *Russia: Rebels on the Red Carpet* and on April 29, 2008, with *Austria-Hungary: Captivating Continentals*.

Tickets for Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations® are \$25. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via Visa or MasterCard by calling (401) 456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at

www.ric.edu/pfa; or at the box office lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.



JEFFREY SIEGEL



Halloween Collage Concert

This annual event – held this year on Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall – will offer a variety of ensembles including brass, vocal, woodwind, dance and percussion groups. Performers will appear in costume, and the audience is also encouraged to dress in the spirit of Halloween. General admission is \$7.



“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN”
UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

In Concert

U.S. MARINE BAND COMES TO RIC OCT. 31

The “President’s Own” United States Marine Band, under the direction of Colonel Michael J. Colburn, will perform the music of America at Rhode Island College on Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall, as part of the band’s northeast concert tour.

Admission to the concert is free, but tickets are required and can be obtained by calling the RIC Box Office at (401) 456-8144. Seating is on a first come-first serve basis.

The Marine Band’s repertoire includes a diverse mix of patriotic music, marches and classical and contemporary tunes.

“The Marine Band is simply the finest group of wind and percussion players in the world today,” said Rob Franzblau, director of bands at RIC. “Audiences love to hear them for the same reason we love to see Michael Jordan play basketball or Tiger Woods play golf – the mastery which they bring to their performances is breathtaking, and you know you’re in the presence of greatness. They are inspiring on so many levels.”

Established on July 11, 1798, by an Act of Congress signed by President John Adams, the Marine Band is the country’s oldest professional musical organization. Their primary charge is to perform for the president of the United States and the commandant of the United States Marine Corps. The band has performed for every U.S. president since John Adams.

The Marine Band only tours in the fall because of its heavy schedule of White House and other ceremonial commitments the rest of the year. Tours begin in early October and last about 50 days as the band performs about 45 concerts, each one in a different town.

Marine Band musicians appear at the White House more than 300 times a year for events including arrival ceremonies, state dinners and receptions. The band also participates in more than 500 public and official performances annually.

Musicians for the Marine Band are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras. The musicians enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps for duty with the band only. Most band members are graduates of the nation’s finest music schools and many hold advanced degrees in music.

John Philip Sousa is perhaps the band’s most famous member. Sousa was the band’s 17th director and started the fall tour tradition.

President Thomas Jefferson, an accomplished musician in his own right, gave the band the title of “the President’s Own.”

The Marine Band accompanied President Abraham Lincoln to Pennsylvania when he gave the Gettysburg Address. They performed at the wedding of President Grover Cleveland to Frances Folson in 1886. President Richard Nixon brought the Marine Band musicians with him on two visits abroad to Yugoslavia and to the Soviet Union.

The Marine Band performed for the 1976 visit of Queen Elizabeth II of England as America celebrated its bicentennial during President Gerald Ford’s administration.

President George H.W. Bush had the Marine Band lead returning Marine Corps veterans of Operation Desert Storm as they passed in review for the president during the National Victory Day parade. The Marine Band also joined the first President Bush at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Korean War Memorial.

President Bill Clinton, an avid saxophonist, sat in with the Marine Band for several numbers at the 1991 Governor’s Dinner at the White House.

In 2002, the Marine Band accompanied President George W. Bush to New York on Sept. 11 to mark the one-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

For more information, contact Robert Franzblau, director of bands at RIC, at (401) 456-9514 or rfranzblau@ric.edu.

Photo: Nikki Carrara



RIC Dance Company in Shannon Hummel’s *Some of My Best Friends Are Dancers*.

College Dance Invitational

The first-ever RIC College Dance Invitational will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. Sponsored by the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, the invitational will celebrate the rich creativity and productivity of local-area dance programs.

College dance companies from Rhode Island and nearby Connecticut will be showcased. Participating schools include Connecticut College, Bryant University, Providence College, Salve Regina University and Rhode Island College. This special event will provide an opportunity to experience the enduring power of dance as a medium for youthful embodiment in its myriad forms.

General admission is \$10, with discounts for seniors, groups and students.

Mini-Concert Series for children

Rhode Island school children will be treated to the RIC Dance Company’s Annual Mini-Concert Series in morning concerts Oct. 24-26 in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Repertory selections will include works by Nathan Andary, Jackie Henderson, Shannon Hummel, and Jennifer Nugent and Paul Matteson. Offered free to all school children in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts since the 1960s, these concerts provide young audiences with an informative and enjoyable introduction to contemporary dance forms.

Open dance company classes

Rhode Island community dancers are invited to open dance company classes with visiting choreographers Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer Nov. 5-7, and 9 from 4:30-6 p.m. and Nov. 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Melcer Dance Studio in the Nazarian Center. (Bridgman and Packer will be featured in the RIC Dance Company’s Winter Concert on Nov. 30.)

Admission is \$8 per class. Reservations are not required.



In the RIC Theatre presentation of *You Can’t Take It With You*, the unique and outrageous Sycamores sit down to eat as the family patriarch (played by Sean Carufel) prays over his eccentric clan. The production, directed by Bob Colonna, was staged Sept. 26-30.



While in Russia last June, Natasha Shein (left) and her sister Oksana (right) wear traditional Russian dress, with handmade gifts from their friends at the orphanage where they once lived.



Natasha and Oksana also visited their paternal grandmother’s house in Zhestelevo, Russia, in June.



Natasha Shein (left) and her sister Oksana.

The Shein family revisits Russia

By Lauren Mesale
Staff Writer

In the Oct. 24, 2005 issue of What’s News, we ran a story on the increasing popularity of international adoptions. Among the families featured in the article were the Sheins of Jamestown, who adopted eight- and nine-year-old sisters from an orphanage in Russia. In June, Rob Shein, media specialist at RIC, his wife Reid, and their daughters Natasha and Oksana, now 10 and 11, made a return trip to Russia. Here is their story.

In June of 2005, two sisters, Oksana and Natasha Morozova, were staying at a hotel with their future adoptive parents in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia’s third largest city. One evening they saw a boy begging in the street, and their faces dropped. Oksana and Natasha wanted to give the boy money; they knew what it was like to live that way – three years earlier, they had been pulled from the streets by police, starving, sick and dirty, and placed in an orphanage.

Rob Shein, multicultural media specialist at the College, who along with his wife Reid was about to adopt the girls, gave the boy what money he had on hand. The girls, however, remained upset by the unfairness of the situation.

“My wife and I were convinced that such a sense of selflessness and empathy had to be nurtured at any – or almost any – expense,” said Shein.

Shein and his wife made a promise to the young girls: they would return one day soon to help other children in need.

This past June, the Shein family returned to Russia for 10 days to deliver supplies to the girls’ former orphanage outside of Moscow, and to visit their places of birth and early childhood.

After staying in Moscow with friends for four days and taking in the sights of the culture-rich city, the Sheins traveled nearly five hours by train to Nizhny Novgorod, along the Volga River. The city is the capital of the district in which lies the girls’ former orphanage, the village in which they were born, and the village in which they lived for the first few years of their lives.

Natasha and Oksana were nervous and excited to be reunited with their old friends and caregivers at the orphanage. They would be the first children to return from America in the history of the orphanage.

The director of the orphanage, Tatyana, asked Shein if the girls liked school and if they were good students.

“Are they accepted? Do they have friends?” she asked.

The answer to both questions was “yes.” The director was relieved to hear this.

Other staff members wanted to know if the girls were obedient. Everyone wanted to know why Oksana and Natasha were no longer primarily speaking Russian. Shein and his wife quickly pointed out that the girls still understood the language, and demonstrated their ability to comprehend the meaning of each Russian word spoken to them.

As the girls ran off to play with their old friends, the Sheins presented the director with supplies the orphanage desperately needed: Children’s Tylenol, Neosporin and antihistamine, among other things. Everything was donated by RIC faculty and staff, and members of the Shein family’s church, Saint Matthews in Jamestown.

The resident children of the orphanage, ages four to 14, were so delighted by their friends’ return that they put on a variety show, art show, sang karaoke, and made gifts for Natasha and Oksana to take home.

From this experience, Oksana has decided that she will return again to become a volunteer summer counselor at her former orphanage as soon as she turns 14. Natasha will likely follow her older sister.

As they prepared to leave the orphanage, the director strongly advised the Sheins not to take their daughters to the villages of their birth and early childhood. It could be too traumatizing for the girls, and too dangerous for the entire family, she said.

“We decided to go for it anyway. I was curious, and the kids were adamant,” said Shein.

The next day, the family set out to find the village where the girls were born. Unable to find

the 300-resident community on any maps, the family was equipped with a house number, town name, and satellite image of where they thought the village might be. But first, they needed to find a reliable driver.

Shein and his wife were able to locate a taxi driver, Viktor, whom they had hired and befriended during the girls’ adoption in 2005. Shein learned that he and Viktor were in the army at the same time, stationed on the Russian border 22 years earlier, barely 20 miles apart. The Sheins knew they could trust Viktor, and they set out on the road.

The closer they got to the village, the more rural the scenery became. There was not a single paved road in the town, or leading to it – only tall grass and worn dirt paths.

The girls’ adoption papers indicated that they were born in their paternal grandmother’s house, number 36, in a small village called Zhestelevo.

The group wandered the seemingly abandoned hamlet, looking for house number 36.

“[Natasha and Oksana] seemed a lot more comfortable than I did ... They led us down dirt paths, picking wild flowers, naming each in their native tongue,” said Shein.

They found houses 35 and 37, and an unmarked, dilapidated house between them, but it appeared to be condemned.

“I thought I heard a radio playing in the house, but thought, ‘there can’t be anyone living in there,’” Shein said.

Viktor engaged a group of elderly village women in conversation and quickly established the girls’ identity; they told him that the girls’ grandmother still lived in the house.

Natasha and Oksana stood at the doorstep and called repeatedly for their grandmother to come out, but she was apparently intoxicated and incoherent, and would not come to the door. Fortunately, the girls did not seem too upset or surprised by what had happened.

Natasha and Oksana lived the first few years of their lives in another village called Ababkovo, less than a mile away from their grandmother. This one had a paved road. Driving along it,

the girls could not remember which house had been theirs.

The family got out of the vehicle and walked to the only store in the center of the town. The store clerk recalled how she used to sneak food to Oksana and Natasha after they had been abandoned and were living as beggars. She told them which house had belonged to girls’ parents. The clerk also confirmed that their father was in prison, and that their mother was living in Pavlovo, a large city about six miles away.

Upon leaving the store, the family drove close to the girls’ former residence and parked outside.

Town residents poured out of their houses to find out who these “strangers” were. Everyone recognized Natasha and Oksana immediately. They touched the girls’ blonde hair and told them they were relieved to see that they were okay. They asked the girls and their new parents countless questions.

“Is this a dream? Are you ghosts?” the women asked. “We thought you were dead!” “This is a miracle!”

The residents recounted stories of the girls’ early lives. Most had tried to help the girls as much as they could by giving them food and water, though they barely had enough for themselves.

Shein left dozens of photographs of Natasha and Oksana with the villagers. The women said that they would show the girls’ pictures to their biological family members, should they ever return to town. They would show them what had become of the children they had neglected.

Though this visit marked the end of their trip to Russia, Natasha and Oksana’s mission to make a difference in the lives of Russian children in need has just begun. And their parents will be right behind them.

Publicity through local media outlets prior to the Sheins’ June departure to Russia led to an avalanche of orphanage donations so great that a second trip has been planned for February 2008 to bring the remaining supplies to Russia. Shein said that this would be an ongoing project for his family.



He’s an undergraduate, not an undertaker

By Nick Lima ’10
Staff Writer

Dressed entirely in black, with long, dark hair and an unbuttoned blazer to match, Ronald Armand Andruchuk ’09 is not your typical Rhode Island College student at first impression. The six-foot-four psychology major appears even more foreboding, however, when he steps out of his vehicle – a 1989 Buick LeSabre Hearse.

According to Andruchuk, his style of dress is a personal preference. “I usually like to present myself in a formal fashion – I don’t really like to dress down,” he said.

Between his tall stature and wearing of a suit every day, Andruchuk looks the part of an undertaker. And for someone who drives a hearse to school, he certainly does gain attention in RIC’s crowded parking lots.

For him, though, the style is purely coincidental. “I feel good about myself [when dressed up], and I look professional,” he said. “It is interesting, though, when people you drive by on the road are doing the sign of the cross at the sight of my car.”

With just under 60,000 miles on it, Andruchuk’s hearse is in good condition and has been kept up well. Purchased last Halloween from a funeral parlor, Andruchuk had to put some work into the vehicle to get it into running shape.

“It was out of commission for a few years, but it was used as an actual service vehicle for a long time,” he said.

So, why does Andruchuk drive a hearse to school every day? To answer that question, he needed a moment of deep thought, and decided to quote psychiatrist Carol Young. “One does not become enlightened by figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious.”

“It’s deeper than it seems,” Andruchuk explained with a smile. “Basically,” he said, “it’s almost a reminder that you’re still alive, and to do the best that you can now, with the time you have.”

Andruchuk spent the first few years of his life in Providence, before his family moved to Cranston at the age of six. An attendee of Catholic schools through his sophomore year of high school, he is a 2002 graduate of Cranston High School East.

Andruchuk said he has

always been fascinated by the psyche of the people around him. From 2003-05, he attended the Community College of Rhode Island, where he began his study of psychology. At CCRI, he developed a true passion for his field, including serving as president of Psi Beta, the two-year honor society for psychology majors.

“I’ve always studied people’s personalities and behaviors and tried to make sense of them,” said Andruchuk of his career choice. Between his time at CCRI and coming to RIC in 2006, Andruchuk had the opportunity to attend conferences of the American Psychological Association in New Orleans and Washington, D.C.

Andruchuk leads an active life, on and off campus. A member of RIC’s Psychological Society, he is also soon to become a member of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology.

And, on Fridays from 10 p.m. until midnight, he hosts a radio show on RIC’s WXIN radio station called *Black Friday*, where he plays a variety of music, from metal to classical.

A fan of “black metal,” which he describes as poetically and philosophically based in its lyrical content, Andruchuk and his friends also play in a band called the Graveside Service Musical Group.

Andruchuk drives the band – in his hearse – to each performance. Members perform in full formal attire, with a floral arrangement placed on stage.

Inspired by reading philosophy and psychology, Andruchuk had considered becoming a mortuary scientist, though he now aspires to be a licensed psychologist. After RIC, he would like to go on to Brown University as a graduate student.

In general, however, he sees his education as unending. “I’m hoping to continue my education throughout my life in order to stay up to date,” he said. “Learning and experience are the most important thing to me.”

When it comes to his hearse, Andruchuk learned something very quickly after a conversation with a police officer. “I wouldn’t pull that thing over,” Andruchuk quoted the officer. “You never know what could be in it.”

Looks can certainly be deceiving.



Henry Barnard School under construction in 1958.

50 Years cont.

that everyone on the new campus was talking about, and everyone who was there still remembers.

“I recall very well that in order to get from one building to another, we had to walk on boards that had been placed on the ground so we wouldn’t sink into the mud,” said Lawrence Lindquist, retired anthropology professor.

Marianne Needham, a member of the class of 1959, the first class to graduate from the new campus, said that the mud forced them to cancel the College’s traditional May Day celebration that year, a tradition that was never revived. “I felt guilty about this for years,” Needham said.

Nonetheless, the soggy soil didn’t dampen the spirits of the students and faculty who would become the first tenants of the new campus.

The cost of that new campus was \$5.6 million and consisted of six buildings. The budget didn’t allow for many frills. There was no air conditioning, no shrubs or landscaping. Then-College president William Gaige took satisfaction in how inexpensively the campus had been built, about \$15.50 per square foot.

But for the 65 faculty members and 800 students, including 260 freshmen, it was a place of excitement and wonder.

The move represented much more than a new location and expanded facilities. It heralded a new College culture that signified the state’s commitment to maintaining the school as a separate entity and provided for enhancement of academic programs, all while offering thousands more students, mostly Rhode Islanders, with an opportunity for a college education.

Some years earlier, critics of R.I.C.E. had launched an ambitious attack on the continued existence of the institution as a separate entity, advocating for it to become part of the Rhode Island State College, renamed URI in 1951.

But friends of the College, aided in no small measure by the strength of alumni, rallied hard and secured the College’s standing.

Much of the campaign to keep the College separate was spearheaded by Mary G. Davey, a 1941 graduate of R.I.C.E., and the former director of Alumni Affairs and Public Relations, who joined the College staff in 1954.

She said the most dramatic point in her campaign came when



MARY G. DAVEY

students went on the roof of the downtown building with a sign that read, “Remember R.I.C.E. when you vote,” and slid it down in front

of the building so it could be seen throughout downtown Providence. “All they needed was a gust of wind and those kids would have fallen,” she said.

That same College today sits on 180 acres, houses 43 buildings, and is Rhode Island College, now a liberal arts college serving nearly 10,000 students, still mostly Rhode Islanders, many of whom are still the first in their families to receive a college education.

Established in 1854, Rhode Island College is the oldest public institution of higher education in the state.

As the 2007-08 school year begins, the College will welcome the largest incoming class in its history, about 2,275 new first-year and transfer students.

“Alumni coming to campus in 2007 might not recognize the positive transformation that has taken place over the last 50 years,” said Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs. “Our growing student body will benefit from an ever-improving campus environment rich with new buildings, new programs and new energy.”

For senior Alicia Vanasse, who is also president of RIC’s Communications Club, the College’s 50th anniversary on Mt. Pleasant Avenue will be a chance to connect with her predecessors. She is already working with other students and student organizations to revive the May Day celebration.



RIC May Day celebration in 1957.

College photos from the 1950s are courtesy of Special Collections, Adams Library.

RIC grad Macomber writes third novel

It took quite some time for James Macomber to find his true passion after he graduated from Rhode Island College in 1970. He worked at Bradley Hospital in East Providence, tended bar, gave tennis lessons and practiced law.

“I guess I have an impaired attention span,” he said. “I always wanted to try something else.”

Now, 37 years later, Macomber has found his niche as an author. *A Grave Breach*, his third novel, was released this month, furthering the development of John Cann, the hero of Macomber’s series.

Set with backgrounds such as the bombing of Pam Am flight 103 and other international incidents, the series is steadily gaining a following.

“The hook is that the novels are legal thrillers that deal with international law,” said Macomber.

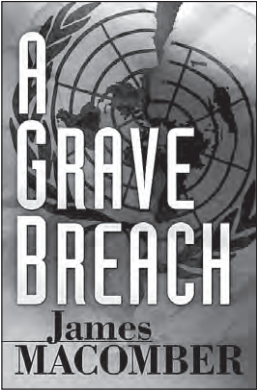
After the release of his first John Cann novel, *Bargained for Exchange*, Macomber wrote *Art & Part*. *A Grave Breach* will continue the story of his previous works, with a plot line centered on the war crimes committed during

the Bosnian War of the 1990s.

Like all of Macomber’s novels, the story is rich in historical background. In *A Grave Breach*, Cann, an international lawyer, has to grapple with ethical and legal dilemmas that twist around both his professional and personal lives.



JAMES MACOMBER



Following a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force after high school, Macomber began his career at RIC without a true direction of study, eventually graduating as a double major – in English and speech theatre – but not before leaving an impact on campus.

Serving as president of the freshman and sophomore classes, Macomber went on to be elected to Student Senate president during his junior year. His senior year at RIC, he became the first student to sit on the Council of Rhode Island College.

A Grave Breach was released on Oct. 1. James Macomber will be in Rhode Island for a book-signing event at Borders Bookstore in the Providence Place Mall on Monday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit his website, www.jamesmacomber.com.

Tenth Annual Multi-Cultural Conference and Curriculum Resource Fair



NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Theme:

Closing the Achievement Gap: Empowering Students and Communities

Keynote Speaker:

Kathleen Cushman

Journalist and Author
Education and School Reform

Registration materials are available online at:
www.ric.edu/promisingpractices

Conference Fees

Pre-registration (non-student): \$30
Pre-registration (student): \$10

Onsite registration (non-student): \$40
Onsite registration (student): \$15

Please make checks payable to RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE. Fees cover lunch and refreshments. Free educational materials relevant to the conference theme will be available.

Scholarships to cover the cost of registration are available: Please contact Patricia Giammarco, Office of Affirmative Action, Rhode Island College, Ph. (401)456-8218.

Organized by
The Dialogue on Diversity Committee

www.ric.edu/promisingpractices

Park Ranger internship educates, inspires RIC student

By Robert Grandchamp

Grandchamp is a senior history/anthropology major at RIC

Students choose to spend their summers in many different ways. Some opt for education and some for enjoyment. In the summer of 2007, I experienced both as an intern in the Living History Division of Harpers Ferry National Historic Park in West Virginia.

During the course of the 13-week internship, I was able to convey to visitors the rich history and cultural resources of Harpers Ferry.

As a National Park, Harpers Ferry presents six main themes to visitors: the arms manufacturing industry, the 1859 raid of John Brown, the Civil War, African-American struggles for freedom, transportation and natural history. These themes come together to present the beautiful mosaic of history that is Harpers Ferry.

An example of this is the 1862 siege and capture of the town during the Maryland Campaign. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson captured the Harpers Ferry garrison. Harpers Ferry weapons, manufactured at the armory, were used in the battle as the mountains presented a formidable natural barrier. John Brown’s raid was the spark that led to the Civil War, while the railroads brought in supplies for the Union. Colonel

Trimble of the 60th Ohio infantry nearly sacrificed his life saving over 200 African-Americans from slavery. All of these themes were utilized daily in the exhibits, and in the streets talking with visitors about Harpers Ferry.

During the summer, I researched and conducted two activities – a Civil War program and a generalized history of the town and its resources. I also was involved with illustrated programs that give the visitor a chance to experience the common sights and sounds of the period. For instance, I presented a weekly firearms demonstration that was supervised by a ranger. In it, I discussed the history of a certain class of weapons, and fired a shot to illustrate to the visitors what the weapon could do.

One of the special programs I took part in involved the use of a reproduction United States Army quartermaster wagon.

Set up to look like a wagon filled with supplies going up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864, the display showed the importance of Harpers Ferry to the campaign, while allowing visitors to see and handle firsthand some reproduced materials from the Civil War,

such as food and soldiers clothing.

Harpers Ferry supports a large black powder program. These reproduction firearms allow the visitor to see, hear and feel what these weapons did in the history of the United States. In order to operate the weapons in the National Park,

I had to undergo several days of intense black powder certification. This consisted of knowing each firearm, how to properly load and fire the weapon, but most importantly, safety and security procedures for using it in the park.

At present, I am certified in the use of both flintlock and percussion weapons at Harpers Ferry. In addition to learning the

above procedures with small arms, I learned about and demonstrated the Civil War cannon, which played an important role in Harpers Ferry’s history.

During the course of the internship, I was constantly engaged in research, and whenever I found new ideas or facts, I passed them on to my supervisors. On one occasion, a simple magazine article on the Virginia militia’s reaction to John Brown’s raid offered new insight into what was occurring at Harpers Ferry in the volatile year prior to the Civil War.

While at Harpers Ferry, I interacted with visitors from all over the world. When a language barrier existed, I used an object such as a musket or tin cup to make connections to their own land, and demonstrated how a product produced here also impacted their country.

In terms of preparation for on-the-job experience, it was fantastic to work with and perform the same duties as National Park Service Rangers. I now believe that this is the right niche for me. Working with the superb park staff and presenting to the visitors made each day on the job unbelievable.

As the official park song states, “Come listen to the rivers, come listen to the land, come listen to the mountains and you will understand.”



Robert Grandchamp at work as an intern at the National Park Service in Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

COMMUNICATIONS DAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2007 MAKE THE CONNECTION...

Continental Breakfast 9 a.m.

Alger Hall 110
Student digital photography show

Informational Sessions 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Orientation for New Communications Majors

Whipple Hall 204
Freshmen and transfer students

Graduate School Seminar

Whipple Hall 204 B
Juniors and Seniors

WORKSHOPS • 11 A.M.-NOON

Expanding the Vernacular

Whipple 106
Featured Speaker: Josh Silverman – President, Schwadesign
What are you saying? Be understood. Be distinct. Never be boring.

The New Publishing: Media In Transition

Whipple 104
Featured Speakers: Thomas E. Heslin, Managing Editor for New Media, *The Providence Journal* and John Palumbo, President and Publisher, Rhode Island Monthly Communications. Two publishing experts explain the direction of media in these changing times.

Social and Legal Advocacy

Whipple 217
Featured Speakers: Maria Cimini '02, Research Associate, Hunger Center and Mara Dolan, Attorney, The Law Offices of Mara Dolan. The inside story on a career in social and legal advocacy from two experts who studied at RIC.

David vs. Goliath: Casinos in the Save Our State Campaign

Whipple 215
Featured Speaker: Patti Doyle '84 – Senior Vice President, RDW Group
An examination of the award winning public relations efforts of the RDW Group's dealing with gambling in Rhode Island.

Internships in Early Intervention

Whipple 204A
Featured Speaker: Stephanie Joyal – Project Assistant, Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies at URI
Introduction to early intervention using concrete examples of providers working with families, demonstrated through video clips.

Luncheon and Keynote • Noon – 1 p.m.

Alger 110
Speaker: Brian Mulhern '92, co-host Coast 93.3 FM's *Tad and Brian* morning show, speaks on "Opportunity vs. Technology: Media as a Career in the 21st Century."

On the Scene 1-2 p.m.

Behind Alger Hall
WPRI-12/Fox News Providence - News Chopper 12 landing
Meteorologist Tony Petrarca and the Channel 12 Weather Mobile

WJAR-10 Mobile Newsroom explains live shots, editing and packaging on location.

FORUMS • 1 - 2 P.M.

1-2 p.m. Dysarthria and its effect on speech, swallow and nutrition

Whipple 217
Featured Speakers: Elizabeth J. O'Connor, M.A. CCC/SLP Chief Language Pathologist and Marianne Bates, R.D., LDN, CNSD Critical care Nutrition Specialist. "Learn what's inside".

2-3:30 p.m. Meet The (Rhode Island) Press

Alger 110
A distinguished panel of local media professionals discusses the privileges, pitfalls and challenges of their jobs in today's media-driven society.

2-3:30 p.m. Communicating in the Workplace

Faculty Center
Featured Speaker: Donna Blinn CCSE, CPBA, Professional Development Trainer will discuss how to communicate effectively with internal and external audiences to present your ideas and image.

4-5 p.m. Communications Dept. Reception

Alger 110
Sponsored by the RIC Communications Club.
For more information, contact Alicia Vanasse, president of the communications club, (401) 241-6719; alicia.vanasse@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS DAY - NOVEMBER 7

ALGER HALL 110
2 P.M.

Members of the local media discuss working in today's television, print and radio mediums. Panelists include:



MODERATOR: FRANK COLETTA

Award-winning news anchor of WJAR-TV's Sunrise show, and adjunct professor at RIC, will lead the panelists in their discussions of the workings of the media.

JOHN DELUCA ABC-6 NEWS ANCHOR/ FIELD REPORTER

Mr. DeLuca has been part of many a change in station ownership and management, and has assumed various positions as a result of executive decisions and format changes. He explains, "Today it's Italian food, next week it could be Chinese." He discusses what it's like when a station changes hands.

WHO'S THE BOSS, TODAY?;
MEDIA MERGERS AND TAKEOVERS



FEEDING THE NEWS BEAST -
THE FATE OF NEWSPAPERS AND
PRINT JOURNALISM IN A
24-HOUR NEWS ENVIRONMENT

SUSAN ARESON THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL METROPOLITAN MANAGING EDITOR

How will newspapers fare in an age when many rely solely on electronic devices for information? How does a print reporter adapt to Web journalism?

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION



JIM TARICANI

WJAR-10 INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

Mr. Taricani was held in criminal contempt for refusing to reveal the identity of a confidential source that provided him with videotaped evidence of corruption among Providence city officials. He served a six-month sentence of home confinement for the charge. The tape was used during a municipal corruption probe of former Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci.

CONFIDENTIALLY
(NOT) SPEAKING:
THE PERILS OF
PROTECTING SOURCES,
THE PROSPECT OF
PRISON.



"I HAVE DAD'S ROLODEX, BUT
HAVEN'T EARNED THE TRUST OF
THE PEOPLE IN IT... YET."

TIM WHITE WPRI-12/FOX PROVIDENCE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

Mr. White, an investigative reporter with Channel 12 in Providence, is the son of the late, legendary investigative reporter, Jack White. He tells what it is like to follow in his father's footsteps at the station and in the state.



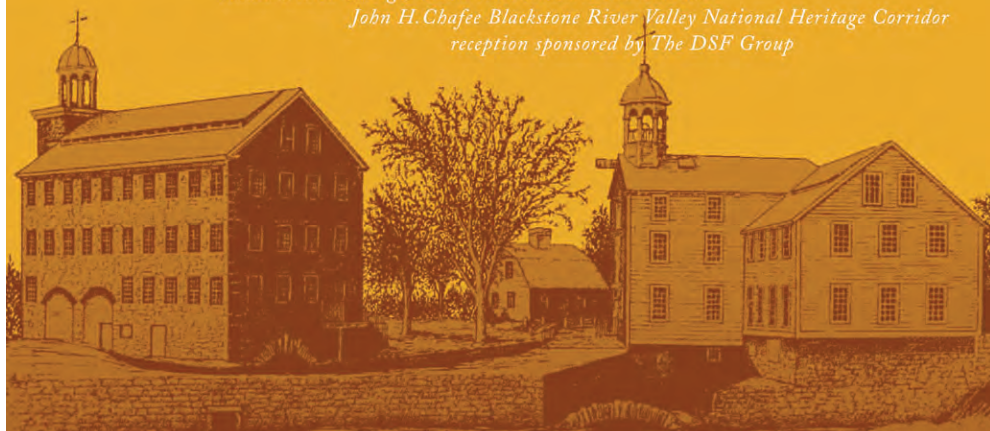
LET'S GIVE
THEM SOMETHING
TO TALK ABOUT

JOHN DEPETRO '87 WPRO-AM TALK RADIO

Mr. DePetro discusses the controversial topics and guests of talk radio, and what it takes to make listeners tune in. How to choose discussion topics? What strategies work best to start or stop someone from talking or going off on tangents? Where do you draw the line?

THE MILL VILLAGE: INDUSTRY, TRANSFORMATION & POWER

November 2 & 3, 2007
Conference Program sponsored by
Rhode Island College, Slater Mill Historic Site and the
John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
reception sponsored by The DSF Group



THE MILL VILLAGE...

created by the owners of the mill to provide a steady, reliable and sober work force, became the focus of life in the newly created industrial landscape. The Mill Village was that place of transition – between a work day based on the changing seasons to a work day governed by the clang of the mill bell.

With Slatersville celebrating its 200th Anniversary as the first planned industrial community, how did this paternalistic landscape shape America? What was its impact on the workers who lived there? On the entrepreneurial owners who ruled its rhythms? On the social constructs that developed there? How are planned communities of our Industrial past linked to the "Boomer" communities of today?

Join noted scholars
and practitioners in an
animated discussion about the
American Industrial Revolution
through the lens of the
Mill Village and today's
industrial landscape.

PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 19, 2007

Sessions will be held Friday, November 2 at Alger Hall, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI with a reception Friday evening at The Weave Mill, Slatersville, North Smithfield, RI; and Saturday, November 3 at Slater Mill Historic Site, Pawtucket, RI.
Fees: Day 1-\$20, Day 2-\$25 (includes box lunch), Both Days-\$40.
A valid student ID gets you into any session free.

sponsored by Slater Mill Historic Site; Rhode Island College; the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; the National Park Service; and The DSF Group.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RANGER CHUCK ARNING, 401-762-0440,
OR VISIT WWW.NPS.GOV/BLAC FOR A COMPLETE AGENDA OF THE SYMPOSIUM



HOOP-STARs: Above, members of the local media joined the RIC All-Stars faculty and staff basketball team in a game against the Harlem Wizards on Sept. 30 in the Murray Center. Top photo (l-r) Barbara Morse Silva, Channel 10 health check reporter; Helen Glover, WHJJ talk show host; Mark Patinkin, *The Providence Journal* columnist; and Mike Montecalvo '84, WPRI-12/Fox News Providence news anchor. At right, a Harlem Wizard puts the finishing touches on a slam dunk. Below, the Wizards greet their opponents.

